

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF DRONE STRIKES IN PAKISTAN (With Special Reference to Internally Displaced Persons in KPK)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of current study is to elucidate the socio-economic impacts of drone attacks in Pakistan regarding perception of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Drone strikes, a fact that have enthralled the various masses within the dawn of twenty first century. The present research assessed the US drone policy and its social, political and economic impacts on Pakistan. Furthermore, it analyzed the perception of IDPs about drone strikes. Methodologically, this research is quantitative research. The research survey approach was adopted by employing a structured questionnaire among 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). However, purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. However, the responses received from 134 educated persons (94 males and 40 females) having minimum education equal to Matriculation. The research conclude that drone attacks are creating chaos among the masses due to array of problems e.g. casualties of innocent lives, destruction of infrastructure, psychological impact, and indeed bringing the educational and economic turmoil for the residents of the tribal areas of Pakistan. The research recommended that Pakistan government should negotiate with the US to ban the drone attacks and to adopt some alternate policy with minimum loss. Moreover, peoples of the affected areas deserve more education, health facilities and better living standards.

**KEY WORDS:** Socio-Economic, Double Tape, IDPs, Signature Strikes, Sampling

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Drone is usually labeled as Bhungana by Pashto speaking Taliban that means anything producing the sound of bee. Drone is also called Ababeel (swallow) by some. It is very helpful for spying. These drones have been controlled by remote and in-built cameras provide visual scenario that helps in identifying the targets. There are two sorts of drone strikes, one is called personality strikes and other is named as signature strikes (1). Personality strikes are less aggressive in nature and very specific in approach. These sorts of strikes were quite common in presidential term of Gorge W Bush. In these strikes only prominent leaders are targeted. On the other hand, signature strikes are totally different in nature. In these strikes group of people have been targeted that bear any resemblance to terrorist group yet their identities are unknown. Obama administration declares any military age man in a certain zone as a terrorist or militant (2).

” Double Tape” strikes have come into fashion most recently as additional missiles have fired in such strikes to block any aid to the targets. These strikes suspend any emergency service to the place of target. The main reason for drone strikes is that the United States should make US safe by eliminating terrorist danger. Many suggested that these strikes are better, precise and accurate mode to combat such activities. Yet it is a serious issue to consider the impacts to these drone strikes. First of all, expenditure that has been documented in this program is very high and significant. Secondly it has caused the flow of rural population to the urban areas. Thirdly there is a considerable killing which is exercising a very bad effect on daily life and education. It is also creating mental health problems which are psychological outcome of these US drone strikes. Furthermore, it would be natural to increase in anti-American movements and feelings in Pakistan (3).

Pakistan’s stance on these strikes has always been adverse and Pakistan always protested against drone policy of US as it is against the sovereignty of state. Civilians also protested and refuted American stance on these drones as they are not only killing terrorists and militants but children and women also have been victimized by these. It has suggested and demanded from US that these drone strikes must be under observation of Pakistan. Yet USA is not ready for that as they do not trust Pakistan completely and they have fear that there will be information leakage regarding strikes (5-6). This drone policy is a failed one as it explores more harmful effects rather than benefits to the region (7). Whole US policy was devised to break the network of militant group called Al-Qaeda. Mountain range of Pak-Afghan war the prime target of USA as major population of terrorist group resides in this area.

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## 2. OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the impact of drone policy on social, political and economic front of Pakistan.
2. To conduct a thorough analysis of IDPs perception about drone strikes.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

According to research objectives, the current research is quantitative. For the purpose, research survey approach was adopted by constructing a structured questionnaire among 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. However, the responses received from 134 educated persons (94 males and 40 females) having minimum education equal to Matriculation. This was further used for drawing inferences among the sample. The 7-point scale was used where the figure 1 denotes a strongly disagreement and the figure 7 for strongly agree with the statement. SPSS 12.0 assisted in generating the data based statistical analysis. The sample population was evaluated in different groups based on gender (males and females). It was little tough for the researcher to question the females' segments but help was taken from political agents and tribal leaders.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics**

Sr. No.	Matric	Intermediate	Graduation	Total
<b>Males</b>	24	56	14	<b>94</b>
<b>Females</b>	26	10	4	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>134</b>

The results regarding demographic character indicated that 24 persons out of selected 94 males were matric, 56 were intermediate and 14 were graduates as mentioned in Table 1. In 40 female's participants, 26 were Matric, 10 were intermediate and only four females were graduated. It is worth mentioning that these peoples were selected after interviewing 200 participants and that shows the level of education in these affected areas. Amongst 90 females questioned, only 20 (22%) were educational status equivalent to matriculation or above.

**Table 2: Views of the respondents for "US has been using drones to target suspected terrorists in Pakistan"**

Response	Male	Females	Total
<b>Agree</b>	10(10.64%)	3(7.50%)	<b>13(9.70%)</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	26(27.66%)	9(22.50%)	<b>35(26.12%)</b>
<b>Mildly Agree</b>	7(7.45%)	3(7.50%)	<b>10(7.46%)</b>
<b>Mildly Disagree</b>	27(28.72%)	1(2.50%)	<b>28(20.90%)</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	4(4.26%)	1(2.50%)	<b>5(3.73%)</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	7(7.45%)	14(35.00%)	<b>21(15.67%)</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	13(13.83%)	9(22.50%)	<b>22(16.42%)</b>
<b>No Response</b>	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	<b>0(0.00%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>134</b>

The above mentioned information demonstrates that slightly more than one quarter male respondents were disagree and mildly disagree US has been using drones to target suspected terrorists in Pakistan whereas, the responses of the female respondents were different from the male respondents. 35% female respondents were agreed with statement while nearly less than one quarter was disagreed with this statement.

**Table 3: Views of the respondents for "The US drone policy created political instability in Pakistan"**

Response	Male	Females	Total
<b>Agree</b>	49(52.13%)	15(37.50%)	<b>64(47.76%)</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	<b>1(0.75%)</b>
<b>Mildly Agree</b>	10(10.64%)	3(7.50%)	<b>12(8.96%)</b>
<b>Mildly Disagree</b>	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	<b>1(0.75%)</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	4(4.26%)	1(2.50%)	<b>5(3.73%)</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	31(32.98%)	19(47.50%)	<b>51(38.06%)</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	<b>0(0.00%)</b>
<b>No Response</b>	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	<b>0(0.00%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>134</b>

The obtained data exposes that more than half of the male and female respondents were agreed that US drone policy created political instability in Pakistan.

**Table 4: Views of the respondents for There is no official agreement on drone strikes in FATA between the US and Pakistan**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	59(62.77%)	4(10.00%)	63(47.01%)
Disagree	10(10.64%)	7(17.50%)	17(12.69%)
Mildly Agree	6(6.38%)	4(10.00%)	10(7.46%)
Mildly Disagree	2(2.13%)	1(2.50%)	3(2.24%)
Neutral	3(3.19%)	4(10.00%)	7(5.22%)
Strongly Agree	10(10.64%)	12(30.00%)	22(16.42%)
Strongly Disagree	4(4.26%)	8(20.00%)	12(8.96%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

This table indicated the response of people regarding their views about statement “There is no official agreement on drone strikes in FATA between the US and Pakistan”. The majority of the male respondents agreed that there is no agreement between US and Pakistan. However, female respondents gave mix response to this statement.

**Table 5: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes have affected the education and health of the people of FATA**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	10(10.64%)	10(25.00%)	20(14.93%)
Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Mildly Agree	9(9.57%)	2(5.00%)	11(8.21%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
Strongly Agree	71(75.53%)	28(70.00%)	100(74.63%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The data demonstrates that majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that drone strikes have affected the education and health of people of FATA.

**Table 6: Views of the respondents for US drone strikes have psychologically affected the people of FATA**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	48(51.06%)	16(40.00%)	64(47.76%)
Disagree	3(3.19%)	3(7.50%)	6(4.48%)
Mildly Agree	12(12.77%)	4(10.00%)	16(11.94%)
Mildly Disagree	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Neutral	13(13.83%)	3(7.50%)	16(11.94%)
Strongly Agree	8(8.51%)	10(25.00%)	18(13.43%)
Strongly Disagree	6(6.38%)	4(10.00%)	10(7.46%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
*Total	94	40	134

In a cross question, “US drone strikes have psychologically affected the people of FATA”, the 47.01% respondent given the agree response, while 7.46% peoples disagreed with the statement. Nearly less than half respondents were agreed with the statement. Moreover, other gave mix response. Interestingly, some of the respondents were of the view that tribes of FATA are strong and thus such drone attacks don’t affect them psychologically.

**Table 7: Views of the respondents for US drone policy is illegal and unethical**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Disagree	2(2.13%)	3(7.50%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Agree	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
Strongly Agree	74(78.72%)	29(72.50%)	103(76.87%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	2(5.00%)	4(2.99%)
No Response	14(14.89%)	5(12.50%)	19(14.18%)
Total	94	40	134

The collected information about the US drone policy majority of the respondents agreed that US drone policy is illegal and unethical.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

War against terrorism has created an ambivalent attitude of the respondents. Most of the respondents were of the view that drone attacks have increased animosity in the hearts of people of the affected areas while the fewer people were looking drone attacks as positive step against war on terrorism. It is admitted that drone attacks have decimated the power of terrorist networks across the world. But at the same time these attacks are creating more terrorists than they are killing. Some states like France and UK are favoring the drone strikes in counter terrorism policy. US justifies drone strikes at global level that its mainland was attacked by the terrorists and to counter that terrorism it was necessary to seek cheaper technology to combat the terrorists. US justify drone strikes on the basis of article 51 of UN and policy of preemptive strikes. US utilizes only one percent of the total annual army budget on the drone program. After a detailed study of the impacts of drone strategy on the FATA areas, the researchers have concluded that this policy has negatively affected not only the people living over there but also the law and order situation of Pakistan. In this way, we can avoid civilian casualties and infrastructure. Moreover, peoples of the affected areas deserve more education, health facilities and better living standards.

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